21 species and 11 additional subspecies, of which 4 species and 6 subspecies are described as new. The group is divided into two subgenera, *Collocalia*, with the tarsus entirely unfeathered, and *Aerodramus* (subgen. nov.), with the tarsus more or less feathered. This is the sole character separating the groups, and while very marked in some species is "sometimes difficult to appreciate." The material on which this investigation is based — 159 specimens — is principally of recent collection, and represents very nearly all the recognized forms. An elaborate key to the species and subspecies facilitates their determination.— J. A. A.

New Names for North American Birds.— Mr. Oberholser claims [1] to have discovered an earlier name for Brewster's *Melospiza lincolnii striata* in *Emberiza* (*Zonotrichia*) *gracilis* Kittlitz, published in 1858 and based on specimens from Sitka, Alaska. The two-line description, so far as it goes, seems to point to this bird rather than to either of the other small sparrows of that locality.

He also proposes [2] to adopt *funerea* in place of *ulula* for the European Hawk Owl, as both names admittedly refer to the same species, and *ulula* stands first on the page. The names of the two forms will thus stand as *Surnia funerea funerea* (Linn.) and *S. f. caparoch* (Müll.).

An earlier name for the Scarlet Tanager, he states,[3] is found in *Loxia mexicana* Linn., so that this species should stand as *Piranga mexicana* (Linn.).

Mr. Bangs has also wrestled anew with the old question of the technical names of the Passenger Pigeon and the Mourning Dove.[4] In the tenth edition of his 'Systema Naturæ' (1758) Linnæus described a pigeon as *Columba macroura*, based on references to both the Mourning Dove (plate 15 of Edwards) and the Passenger Pigeon (plate 25 of Catesby); but Mr. Bangs shows that Linnæus took his brief diagnosis and habitat from Catesby's plate and description of the Passenger Pigeon, for which the name *macroura* is hence to be retained, although of late currently applied to the Mourning Dove. The name for the latter must therefore be taken from Linnæus's twelfth edition (1766), where the name *macroura* is abandoned and the two species are each provided with wholly new names, the Passenger Pigeon being called *Columba migratoria* and the Mourning Dove *Columba carolinensis*. At the same time, the reference to Edwards (the West Indian form of the Mourning Dove) is made the basis of a third species, named *Columba marginata*, which antedates the name *bella* recently given to this race by Palmer and Riley. The names of these birds thus

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[1] An Earlier Name for *Melospiza lincolnii striata*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XIX, p. 42, Feb. 26, 1906.

[2] The Specific Name of the Hawk Owls. *Ibid.*, pp. 42, 43.

[3] *Piranga erythromelas* versus *Piranga mexicana*. *Ibid*, p. 43.

[4] The Names of the Passenger Pigeon and the Mourning Dove. By Outram Bangs. *Ibid.*, pp. 43, 44.

become, respectively, *Ectopistes macroura* (Linn.), *Zenaidura carolinensis* (Linn.), and *Z. c. marginata* (Linn.). Unfortunate as is this transposition of names, it seems to be a clear case, based on the correct application of sound and generally accepted rules of nomenclature. As the first citation by Linnæus under *Columba macroura* was Edwards's figure and account of the West Indian form of the Mourning Dove, it was natural, in less exacting times, to fix the name on the Mourning Dove, as being the first species mentioned, rather than on the Passenger Pigeon; but of late, in delimiting an early composite species, it is proper, and has become customary, to restrict the name to that part of the composite most clearly indicated by the diagnosis, which in this case is beyond question the Passenger Pigeon.— J. A. A.

Howell on 'Birds that Eat the Cotton Boll Weevil.' — Investigations conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in an effort to control the ravages of the cotton boll weevil include the relation of birds to the weevil. This work was begun in Texas in the autumn of 1904, and continued during the summer of 1905. A recently issued Biological Survey 'Bulletin' contains a further report of progress (for notice of the first report see *antea*, p. 119) by Mr. Howell,[1] based on the examination of the stomachs of birds collected in Texas during July to October, 1905. Of the 62 species examined, 12 were found to have eaten boll weevils. In all 28 species have been found to feed on the weevil, of which the orioles, blackbirds, meadowlarks, and the killdeer are among the most important. "Birds," it is said, "are not the least important of the boll weevil's natural enemies, and every species ascertained to feed on it should be protected at all times and places, not only in the cotton-producing area, but along their migration routes." Attention is called to the fact that a number of species that prey upon the weevil are not at the present time protected in Texas.— J. A. A.

Palmer on Federal Game Protection.— Dr. T. S. Palmer, Assistant in Charge of Game Protection, Biological Survey, has given a concise history of Federal Game Protection in the United States,[2] with especial reference to the first five years of the twentieth century. Prior to the year 1900 the Federal Government had done comparatively little for the protection of game, and nothing for the prevention of the introduction of noxious animals and birds from foreign countries, nor for the regulation of interstate commerce in game, and very little for the protection of game in national parks and reservations. Many of the individual States had

[1] Birds that Eat the Cotton Boll Weevil — a Report of Progress. By Arthur H. Howell. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Biological Survey, No. 25, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1906.— 8vo, pp. 22.

[2] Federal Game Protection — A Five Years' Retrospect. Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1905, pp. 541–562.